

NOTICE.

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WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS
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PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS,
DRUGGISTS, SURGEONS,
And
OPERATED WATER MAKERS.
SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED
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NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm A. S. Watson and Co., or HONGKONG DISPENSARY. 123

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed "The Editor," and those business "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until discontinued.

Orders for extra copies of the *Daily Press* should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.

After that hour the supply is limited.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, DECEMBER 29TH, 1884.

The additional particulars which have come to hand concerning the outbreak in Korea leave no doubt as to the origin of the disturbance. It commenced with the pro-gressionists, who, irritated by the opposition of the reactionary party and the avowed desire of some members of that faction to place the kingdom under direct Chinese control, and chafing at the presence of Chinese soldiers in the capital, had determined to strike a blow for the supremacy, and with this view included the four commanders of the native troops in their list of victims. It is to be regretted that the party, which under ordinary circumstances should have commanded the sympathy of all foreigners, should have been so ill-advised as to resort to the desperate and unworthy expedient of assassination.

We do not, however, for one moment credit the accusations made, in some quarters, against the Japanese of instigating and supporting such a *coup d'état* as that attempted on the 4th inst. at Seoul. In the first place it is quite opposed to the conciliatory policy which Japan has steadily pursued in Korea; in the second, it is in the highest degree unlikely that the Japanese Government, which had just foregone an indemnity demanded for an outrage committed on their Legation in Seoul two years before, would countenance a movement so calculated to provoke another outbreak; and in the third place, had such a course ever been meditated by the Japanese Ministers they certainly would not have withdrawn a portion of the Legation guard, as was done some time ago.

But, quite independently of these obvious prudential considerations, we are satisfied that Japan would not connive in such a despicable plot as that which involved the murder of nearly all the Korean Ministers of State because they still upheld the old policy of seclusion. The Japanese may not always have been discreet in their intercourse with the Koreans, and may have desired to urge on progress a little too fast, but they have shown a genuine desire to aid their neighbour and secure her independence.

With regard to the collision between the Japanese and Chinese soldiers and the massacre of Japanese merchants and residents in Seoul, it seems pretty clear that the Commander of the Chinese troops is mainly responsible for those events. It may be, and there seems reason to believe, that the encounter between the respective garrisons would never have taken place had not the Japanese been posted in the Royal Palace as guard to the King. His Majesty, evidently not trusting his own Korean guard, sent to Mr. TAKESOZO, requesting assistance, and after consideration the Japanese Minister despatched one hundred of the Legation guard to the Palace. As the *Press* and *Primaugut*, are to be fitted out to join the French squadron in Chinese waters, they each carry fifteen guns, six 6-pdr. and nine 3-pdr., and are manned by 254 men. They are all well-armed and have a maximum speed of fifteen knots. They are of the same style as the *Villars* and *D'Eating*.

The *Primaugut* has been posted to the port of Yokohama, and about 100 men of the crew, with the exception of the gunners, have been detached to the *Villars* and *D'Eating*. The *Primaugut* and *Villars* are to be fitted out to join the French squadron in Chinese waters, they each carry fifteen guns, six 6-pdr. and nine 3-pdr., and are manned by 254 men. They are all well-armed and have a maximum speed of fifteen knots. They are of the same style as the *Villars* and *D'Eating*.

A report by the Government Astronomer on magnetic observations made during the year 1884 is published in the *Gazette*.

A biography of the late Mr. P. A. da Costa has been written in the Portuguese language by Mr. J. M. de Jesus, and has been published in pamphlet form.

Mr. W. Donald Spence has been appointed to relieve Mr. W. Gregory, H. M.'s Consul at Seoul, and is left Amy for his post in the *Champion* on the 17th instant.

Two Japanese merchants lately sailed from Korea for Japan, for the purpose of getting a concession for a loan from the Chinese Government. The second disputation, however, will probably lead them to defer their scheme.

The *Strait Times* says that H.R.H. Prince Oscar of Sweden, during his recent visit to Bangkok, presented His Majesty the King of Siam with the grand cordon of the most noble order of the Star and the King, in return presented the Prince with the grand cordon of the Order of Siam.

Three first-class cruisers, the *Magicienne*, *La Perouse*, and *Primaugut*, are to be fitted out to join the French squadron in Chinese waters. They each carry fifteen guns, six 6-pdr. and nine 3-pdr., and are manned by 254 men. They are all well-armed and have a maximum speed of fifteen knots. They are of the same style as the *Villars* and *D'Eating*.

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We are requested to state that as the Ball at Government House on the 21st instant is "to celebrate Her Majesty's Birthday," all gentlemen entitled to uniform are requested to wear it.

A shipment of 200 tons of torpedoes has been despatched from Woolwich Arsenal to the Royal Albert Docks on board the steamship *Ajaz* for Hongkong. The *Ajaz* will take out with the consignment ten miles of insulated wire.

Although matters as they stand have a rather ugly appearance, and pessimists look forward to hostilities between Japan and China as an inevitable consequence, we are disposed to agree with the *Japan Mail* in thinking there will be no serious complications. Our *Yokohama* contemporary says:—"The King of Korea, who is now at the Chinese camp, has given audience to Mr. TAKESOZO, and assured him, in the presence of the Chinese General as well as of the United States Minister, that the friendship of Korea for Japan is unaltered, and that she is ready to make any reparation which the Mikado may desire. The account with China may not be so easily settled, especially as the Korean Minister for Foreign Affairs is not likely to admit anything unfavourable to his party. The public will do well, however, to believe very little of the current rumours with regard to the despatch of Japanese troops and other measures of a like nature. The intentions of the Tokyo Cabinet are known to be entirely pacific, and so far as steps have been taken to control the utterances of the press, which, as may be supposed, showed a disposition to be exceedingly outspoken on the subject of China's conduct." This latter fact is an unmistakable proof of the peaceful disposition of the Japanese Government and of their desire to come to an amicable settlement of the new difficulty which has been created by the massacre of their troops with the Chinese soldiers at Seoul. As will be seen by the telegram published in another column, Count IKUROU KAORU, the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed High Commissioner to the Court of Seoul, and left for Korea on the 22nd inst., escorted by the corvette *Kongo*. It is probable that the departure of Count IKUROU KAORU was what was meant by our recent telegram from Shanghai, which stated that Japanese troops, number unknown, had left for Korea. No troops would seem to have been despatched from Japan to Korea, and it is evident that the Japanese Government, in entrusting the investigation of the outbreak to such able hands as those of Count IKUROU KAORU, has done its best to avoid a quarrel with Peking if it is possible. We believe that the Chinese Government are no less desirous of arriving at a peaceful solution of the difficulty, but it is to be hoped, more especially, that the Chinese Government, which under ordinary circumstances should have commanded the sympathy of all foreigners, should have been so ill-advised as to resort to the desperate and unworthy expedient of assassination.

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